

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A balloon catheter for performing an angioplasty  
procedure on a lesion in a vessel comprising a flexible  
elongate catheter shaft having proximal and distal  
extremities. A balloon is secured to the distal extremity  
of the catheter shaft and has an outer surface extending  
between proximal and distal extremities of the balloon. A  
flexible elongate element is provided which extends over the  
outer surface of the balloon. The flexible elongate element  
10 has proximal and distal extremities which are secured about  
the catheter shaft in positions spaced longitudinally away  
from the outer surface of the balloon to permit expansion of  
the balloon and to cause movement of the flexible elongate  
element into engagement with the lesion to form a  
15 longitudinal channel in the lesion.

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